



# Routes to tour in Germany

## The Nibelungen Route



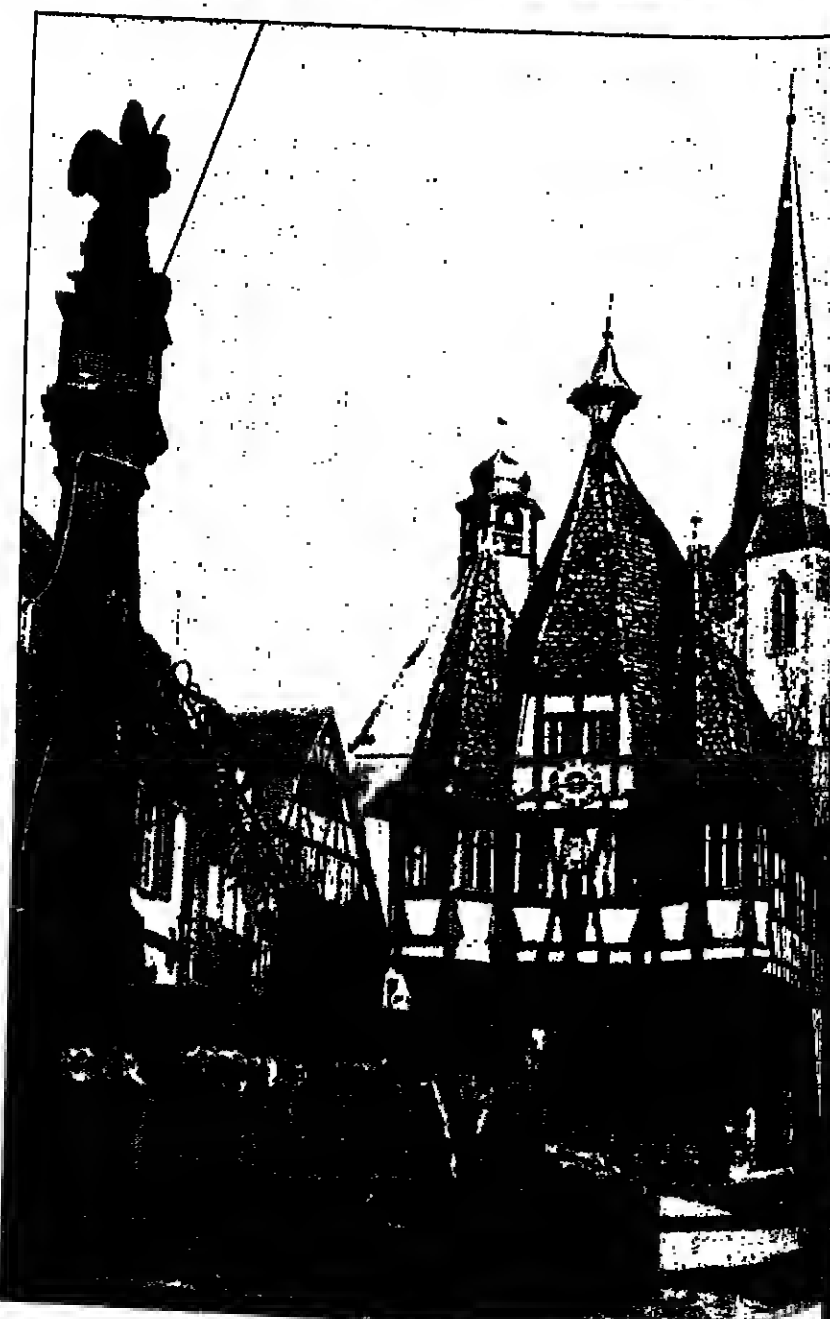
German roads will get you there - to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the medieval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered Rathaus. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.

- 1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
- 2 Miltenberg
- 3 Odenwald
- 4 Michelstadt
- 5 Wertheim

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS E.V.  
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# The German Tribune

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## Complex role of Grenada in Havana's game

Europeans should look at their own record before using Grenada as a base for fashionable anti-Americanism.

The curse of centuries lies on the Caribbean, an area nowadays associated only with luxury cruises. Germans did not kid themselves that they are most blameless of the major European nations.

When Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, was unable to repay the peace of Westphalia election campaign loan authorized them instead to ship slaves from Africa to the Caribbean: 4,000 slaves and 5,000 in another.

The Germans played their part in the times associated with sugar and slaves. They have left their mark on the Caribbean to this day.

Alexander von Humboldt forecast in the early 19th century a revolutionary tendency.

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New drying-out treatment for alcoholics

TO A Cuban-led Afro-Caribbean federation.

It is exactly what has been taking place for the past eight years. Cuba is able to rely, in its bid for regional supremacy, on the features Humboldt noted.

The Cubans still feel themselves to be a nation of mulattoes with firm African roots that entitle it to take the lead among islands with populations that are blacker.

The Panama Canal has brought about a fundamental change in the geography of the region. Before it was built, navigation was entirely different.

For the 49ers who took part in the Mexican gold rush over a century ago, Valparaiso in southern Chile was

the base on which they relied for supplies of food.

The Panama Canal made shipping goods by sea so much cheaper that much of America's coast-to-coast freight went via the Caribbean.

That, then, is the paradox. A major US domestic trade route runs via the Panama Canal. Any threat to its safety sounds an immediate alarm.

Or so it ought to be. But since Cuba, the United States has been unable to restore a satisfactory state of affairs, and experts feel nothing can be done to remedy matters for some time.

If Cuba had left it at that, a fairly peaceful status quo might have arisen. But after trying its hand, with varying degrees of success, at subversion in Latin America, Havana began in the 1970s to play its black African card in the Caribbean.

This was the period in which Cuban troops were sent even further afield: to Angola and, significantly, Africa.

For a while it looked as though Humboldt's forecast might yet come true under a Communist Cuba. Jamaica under Michael Manley established very close ties with Havana.

Belize looked promising. Then there was Guyana. But above all, Maurice Bishop in Grenada came closest to the idea of an engaging revolutionary in the Caribbean.

Belize and Guyana are over 2,500

miles apart. So in geostrategic terms the Afro-Caribbean axis has an importance that is hard to assess in advance but is certainly out of all proportion to the number of people involved.

The population of Grenada is little more than that of a suburb of Frankfurt. But it was hard to say what the idea behind the runway for long-haul aircraft was that has been under construction on the island for years.

The Cuban construction workers returned the fire of the occupying forces.

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Nato is willing to scrap about 2,000 of its 6,000-odd short-range tactical nuclear weapons in Western Europe.

This was decided by the nuclear planning group meeting in Ottawa.

There are no conditions on this decision, which must not be underestimated.

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That at least has in no way been changed by the Soviet announcement that if the West goes ahead with missile modernisation it will deploy new short-range missiles in the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

This reaction was only what Nato had been expecting, as was the further statement that Moscow would then break off the Geneva INF talks on medium-range missiles.

For one, Western intelligence agen-



## Chancellor comforts a marine

Chancellor Helmut Kohl talks to an American victim of the Beirut bombing attacks that left more than 200 French and American soldiers dead and many more injured. Sergeant Steven Russell was one of about 50 wounded evacuated to the American military hospital in Wiesbaden.

(Photo: dpa)

A Caribbean conundrum

Opposition to the US invasion of Grenada is widespread in Europe. Foreign policy cooperation between the EEC Ten and Nato faces a fresh test.

Grenada is a party to the Lomé Convention, by the terms of which 63 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries maintain special ties with the European Community.

It is also a member of the British Commonwealth. So the Ten face a choice between solidarity with an ACP, or Lomé, partner and solidarity with the United States.

A majority of 63 ACP countries, led by Zimbabwe as a member of the UN Security Council, is opposed to the United States.

Western Europe in the shape of the EEC faces a foreign policy challenge of major proportions because the terms of a third Lomé convention are under negotiation with 65 developing countries.

They amount to a numerical majority of the Third World, and Europe cannot afford to be indifferent to military intervention against one of its ACP partners.

The European Community stands to forfeit credibility in the Third World unless it comes out in public against such intervention.

The security policy aspect must not, of course, be disregarded. America protects Western Europe.

There is an increasingly vocal body of US opinion opposed to constant and repeated US military commitments in other parts of the world, and even in America's own back yard.

A policy of Atlantic crisis management is more badly needed than ever.

Hermann Bohle  
(Bremer Nachrichten, 27 October 1983)

## Nato decides to scrap part of battlefield nuclear arsenal

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## ■ WORLD AFFAIRS

## Russians drop a bombshell in middle of the peace movement

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This was a response to deployment of US missiles in Western Europe.

The Russians ignored the feeling widely shared in the peace movement that Nato is solely or mainly to blame for the arms race.

They cannot have made life easier for those in the peace movement who are convinced the threat of war comes mainly from the West.

Moscow's response was to demonstrate in no uncertain terms its ability to deploy a rocket and a half or more for every missile Nato felt emboldened to set up.

Soviet leaders are guided by the needs and interests of the Soviet Union, and that is part of what makes them predictable.

## Grenada role

Continued from page 1

so they certainly seem to have been more than building workers on a holiday.

The pattern of islands that is the Caribbean covers the approaches to both the Panama Canal and the Gulf of Mexico.

Much of America's energy supplies, both from Alaska and from the Middle East, passes this way.

Germans may feel the United States has over-reacted, but how would they react if there were a threat to their access to Berlin or to the North Sea ports?

The Americans were largely to blame in their day for the Cuban debacle and the ills of Central America. They were also very late in realising that it might be a good idea to coordinate with the Europeans what they were doing in the Caribbean.

Information is still slow in crossing the Atlantic, leaving the unpleasant impression that America has simply reverted to gunboat diplomacy of old.

There can be little doubt the Americans knew exactly what they were doing. They were unable to resist the temptation of a welcome opportunity to intervene.

The murder of Maurice Bishop may have deprived the revolutionary regime of legitimacy, but the United States still has much to answer for to democratic governments near and far.

Despite the hostile propaganda, of course, it is true to some extent that nothing succeeds like success.

The advance of Cuban-style revolution is still very much in progress in Central America. Washington has brought it to a halt for once.

So despite the misgivings voiced by US and foreign opinion, the Reagan administration's move may yet be covertly applauded.

Reactions in the region are more complex than they appear to be from afar.

Robert Held

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 October 1983)

## Süddeutsche Zeitung

At the moment Soviet requirements in this context are over the Geneva disarmament talks, what shape the final round of talks takes and who is to be blamed if they break down.

Who is to blame is important, at least for appearance's sake and for public opinion in the West. It is also important for the negotiating position of the superpowers should they want to carry on with their talks on arms control.

These, then, were considerations the Soviet announcement bore in mind. There was to be no haste and no exaggeration.

The Soviet moves will be made at the same time as the Geneva talks break down presuming they do) and the deployment of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles gets under way.

A geographical limitation is imposed by the choice of short-range Soviet missiles, but they are clearly only the first move.

The choice of the GDR and Czechoslovakia makes it seem likely they are missiles of the kind in use at division and army level in the Warsaw Pact since the 1960s.

They would thus be in line for replacement by more up-to-date missiles, probably SS-21s and SS-23s, with ranges of between 75 and 300 miles.

Modernisation has long been planned and has already begun in the GDR, and in more peaceful times than the present would have led to criticism.

But now the new missiles can be claimed as a counter-measure in US

missile deployment and a defensive measure to maintain the balance of power.

Yet modernisation of Soviet short-range missiles in no way adds to the military threat to Western Europe. The threat has long existed and has been greatly heightened by the deployment of SS-20s.

All the new Soviet missiles can be expected to achieve is to add to awareness that whatever happens, even a zero option, the Federal Republic would still be within striking distance for short-range Soviet missiles.

That is not a result of the ill-will of either the Russians or the Americans. It is a result of the Second World War, which ended with the border between East and West running from one end of Germany to the other.

The Soviet announcement that missile modernisation is to be undertaken in a sector in which arms limitations neither apply nor are being negotiated is unlikely to be intended to recall this fact.

It is probably intended to establish favourable psychological and military conditions for the final round of Geneva talks.

The Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers, meeting in Sofia, have offered to continue the Geneva talks provided Nato postpones missile modernisation.

Mr Gromyko, in his Vienna talks with Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was not prepared to commit the Kremlin to not allowing the talks to break down entirely.

Moscow now plans to go ahead with Soviet missile modernisation following the initial build-up that prompted Nato to reach its 1979 dual-track decision.

## Bonn, East Berlin, tread with care over common ground

The two German states are being very careful in relations with each other. Neither is represented at the Geneva talks but both are worried about the possible repercussions of missile modernisation and post-modernisation.

They are worried there might be such a deterioration in East-West ties that their special relationship, would be seriously affected.

That is why Erich Honecker's note warning that a fresh ice age might be imminent has been viewed in Bonn less as a threat than as an expression of anxiety.

Chancellor Kohl was careful to reply in cordial terms. Since neither letter is going to bring about the renunciation of fresh missiles, as everyone knows, it is the tone that makes the music.

The detail into which the two sides go, the care they take in their choice of words, and the avoidance of the slightest discordant or harsh note are more important than the appeal to the other side to dispense with missile modernisation.

To this extent the two states have indeed joined forces in a coalition of common sense, as called for by Herr Honecker.

## STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Many West Germans have voiced their fears of fresh missiles by taking part in the peace rallies.

The GDR leaders have allowed a letter from Protestant congregations voicing consternation over further missile modernisation by the East to be published in *Neues Deutschland*, the official East Berlin newspaper.

The only point of allowing the letter to be published can be to demonstrate that the GDR leadership are really not interested in further escalation.

The two states have outlined their views on the issues at stake clearly and in tones of moderation.

Is progress possible over and above the endeavour not to upset the atmosphere in which the two sides are able to hold talks?

Some idea should be conveyed by the outcome of Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg's visit to the GDR. Herr Stoltenberg should be an extremely interesting person for the GDR to talk to.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 October 1983)

There are various moves in Soviet policy, but the latest is clearly made in a bid to disorient Reuign's claim that the would knuckle under in Germany as it saw that Nato meant no demilitarisation seriously.

President Reagan's claim has been completely disproved. It is still in progress and would not be called into question if the Knie to go ahead.

The Russians have made it clear there is no longer any point in consideration in order to make way in Geneva.

To this extent their position might be taken as a cover for the fact that the talks have broken down and there are no good reasons for the fact that the last word has not yet been said.

It will be spoken by the Soviet Mr Andropov, and he will just debate when it nears its climax. He will not be the SPD conference Bonn Bundestag debate on 21 October and the end of the Geneva talks.

Whatever the outcome, Moscow will be armed to deal with any eventuality.

Josef Riedel

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 October)

## Nato weapons

Continued from page 1

rent purposes is due to the fact these systems are theatre nuclear weapons.

They are capable of making a war easier to wage — in Europe. The government evidently failed to detect this point called for.

Hardly limit this dispute seems settled but the US invasion of Grenada was launched.

How else can the move be seen than as a demonstration of military striving for power? How else America's allies see it than as a sign to imperialist measures?

Grenada emerged as the main at Ottawa even though it was not on the agenda. Never in history have the Americans enjoyed such unanimous opposition as this occasion.

How predictable is the US in its foreign policy? What might the Reagan administration feel emboldened to make, especially view of trends in Latin America?

The US administration is in the process of plunging Nato into a series of predictable and creditable moves, lacking in the policies pursued by the leading Western powers.

It is up to Europe and Canada to a halt to Washington's present course and to do so clearly. Otherwise they are running the risk of being relegated to the role of mere vassals.

Ulrich Mecklenburg

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 October)

The German Tribune

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## HOME AFFAIRS

## Protest marches: both sides sit back to look at the results

We can breathe a sigh of relief now the peace movement's week of protest against the deployment of new missiles is over. It failed to usher in the autumn many had forecast and

Demonstrations were not accompanied by the sound of broken glass and riotous violence. Rallies weren't marred by rioting and disorder.

The principle of non-violence to which the peace movement was volubly committed was upheld by a display of admirable discipline on the demonstrations.

Frankfurt philosopher Jürgen Habermas recently termed civil disobedience the kind practised by over a million demonstrators during the anti-missile campaign as the touchstone of the country's maturity.

If the overwhelmingly peaceful and orderly course of the demonstrations is any guide, the Federal Republic of Germany can fairly claim to have passed the test with flying colours.

It was by no means bound to do so, especially after stone-throwing during a visit to Krefeld by US Vice-President Bush and street fighting between demonstrators and the police in Berlin.

Both sides prepared for the week of anti-missile demonstrations seriously and self-assuredly as never before, and preparations paid dividends.

Members of the peace movement in some cases spent weeks preparing for public protest moves, while the police showed admirable understanding for demonstrators' motives.

The West German peace movement no longer be denigrated, still less labelled as little more than a criminal, in any way it was by all and sundry before the week of protest.

There may continue to be talk of violence in the sense that the legal profession is given to regarding protest moves and blockades as violence.

This is clearly indicated by the latest comments on the subject by the chief justice of the Federal Constitutional Court, Ernst Benda.

But it will no longer be too easy to label and prosecute an act of civil disobedience as a common crime.

Judges and public prosecutors who refuse to do so are liable to be asked whether they are 'not subscribing' to Professor Habermas terms an authoritarian legalism that is more of a burden on than a benefit to the rule of law.

The Federal Republic is undoubtedly the brink of an important process of maturation on this point.

Conservative politicians such as Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann and his parliamentary state secretary Carl-Dieter Spranger will find arguments more difficult to substantiate too.

With reference to the hot autumn that so far failed to materialise they have turned back the wheel of liberalisation and would dearly like to impose more restrictions.

The words of warning spoken by Ministers and state secretaries in connection with the peace movement's activities are seen in retrospect to have been fully justified.

The millions of people who took to

the streets during peace week were not radicals or potential extremists for whom nothing but the threat of the big stick was appropriate.

They were ordinary people making use of their constitutional rights, even though they may have taken them to the extreme on occasion.

The legal precautions taken by Bonn and the constant appeals made by politicians showed yet again that many politicians still have a very limited concept of democracy.

It is one in which the responsible citizen only exists as a regulated individual ordered about by the authoritarian state.

It would be unfortunate indeed if the peaceful course of the week's demonstrations were not to make some people in Bonn reconsider.

There can no longer be any denying the peace movement that its autumn campaign was a success. What it organised was truly impressive.

It, and not the anti-nuclear campaign of the 1950s or the extra-parliamentary Opposition of the late 1960s, can now claim to be the largest protest movement in the history of the Federal Republic.

Yet it would be fateful if the peace movement were to infer from the number of people who took part that it represents a majority of public opinion, as one of its spokesmen, Jo Leinen, has done.

Such claims are not substantiated by references to the 50 or 75 per cent of people who have said in polls that they are against deploying new missiles either.

Opinion polls are no entitlement, and the peace movement would be ill advised

to claim the sole right to represent its views and make its demands. In the wake of the week of protest there is greater risk than ever of the peace movement overestimating its importance. It remains to be seen whether it has peaked or, as some of its spokesmen claim, the autumn campaign was only the start. Such a marshalling of strength as the peace week called for cannot be repeated at will.

At times during the week the campaign showed signs of exhaustion. Besides, this first week will be the yardstick by which the success of activities in November and December will be judged.

Yet the peace movement is unlikely to fall apart at the seams after the week of demonstrations, regardless what some Bonn politicians may on the quiet be hoping.

That is not to say that parts of it may not crumble away. A serious burden could soon be imposed by clashes with the peace movement over relations with the Social Democrats.

This dispute has been given a voluble public airing by Petra Kelly, spokesperson for the Greens, who share the Op-

position benches with the SPD in the Bonn Bundestag.

SPD leader Willy Brandt, who like Frau Kelly was a speaker at the final rally in Bonn, will likewise have noticed that integrating the peace movement within Social Democratic ranks is easier said than done.

There is a limit to which the SPD can adapt to others' views, and the peace movement and its political objectives have long gained independent status.

So both sides will be keen not to forfeit too much of their respective identities.

Heinz Verfurth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 October, 1983)

## Life after the missiles are deployed

Besides, both sides had made provocative statements that made tempers flare up beforehand.

Hotheads in the peace movement threatened to make the country ungovernable if missile modernisation went ahead and to oust the government and end the present set-up by holding a general strike.

Hotheads on the other side accused the peace movement of being a fifth column of Moscow's and an anti-peace movement and of practising social sabotage.

Verbal escalation was not followed by corresponding deeds. Never before has Germany witnessed such imaginative forms of protest.

The police have come to realise that it is not just a rerun of the 1968 unrest and that a new generation is having its say in a new way.

Not for nothing has Sir Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning *Gandhi* been such a box office success this year.

The government is somewhat at a loss on how to deal with the phenomenon.

Chancellor Kohl continues to argue that his election victory last March gave

him a clear mandate in favour of the Nato dual-track decision.

But opinion polls invariably tell a different tale. About two Germans in three are in favour of the Federal Republic remaining in Nato, but an equal number are opposed to the deployment of medium-range US missiles in Germany.

In the long term this is a fact the Chancellor's Office will be unable to brush aside or ignore.

This brings us to the second point, the change of mind, which is arguably even more important.

Adenauer's policy toward the Soviet Union and other neighbouring countries to the east could not in the long run be reconciled with the wishes and needs of people in this country.

The same applies to the current security policy. Until a few years ago a majority of the public showed scant interest in Nato doctrines and the defence budget. Not any longer.

The change is due in part to the public debate in Washington 'on whether a limited nuclear war could be waged.

Germans grew keenly aware that members of the Reagan administration were referring not to Alaska or the Sahara, but to nuclear hostilities in Europe.

This awareness has accelerated a change of which the most striking expression has been SPD leader Willy

Continued on page 8



Human chain: anti-missile protesters formed this 100-kilometre (70 miles) chain from the town of Neu-Ulm, a proposed missile site, to Stuttgart, where the American forces have a European command post.

(Photo: AP)



## WORLD AFFAIRS

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## Süddeutsche Zeitung

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Who is to blame is important, at least for appearance's sake and for public opinion in the West. It is also important for the negotiating position of the superpowers should they want to carry on with their talks on arms control.

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Robert Held

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 October 1983)

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President Reagan's claim has been completely disproved. It is still in progress and would be called into question if the Kremlin went ahead.

The Russians have made it clear there is no longer any point in consideration in order to make way in Geneva.

To this extent their position might be taken as a cover for the fact that the talks have broken down. There are good reasons for that the last word has not yet been said.

It will be spoken by the Soviet Mr Andropov, and he will join the debate when it nears its climax. The SPD conference in Bonn Bundestag debate on 21 November and the end of the Geneva talks.

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Josef Richter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 October)

## Nato weapons

Continued from page 1

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Grenada emerged as the main issue at Ottawa even though it was not on the agenda. Never in history have the Americans enjoyed such unanimous opposition as this occasion.

How predictable is the US in its foreign policy? What might the Reagan administration feel emboldened to make, especially in view of trends in Latin America?

The US administration is in the process of plunging Nato into a serious crisis. Predictability and credibility are lacking in the policies pursued by the leading Western power.

It is up to Europe and Canada to a halt to Washington's present course and to do so clearly. Otherwise they are running the risk of being relegated to the role of mere vassals.

Ulrich Mackensen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 October)

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(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 October 1983)



Human chain: anti-missile protesters formed this 100-kilometre (70 miles) chain from the town of Neu-Ulm, a proposed missile site, to Stuttgart, where the American forces have a European command post. (Photo: AP)

position benches with the SPD in the Bonn Bundestag.

SPD leader Willy Brandt, who like Frau Kelly was a speaker at the final rally in Bonn, will likewise have noticed that integrating the peace movement within Social Democratic ranks is easier said than done.

There is a limit to which the SPD can adapt to others' views, and the peace movement, and its political objectives have long gained independent status.

So both sides will be keen not to forfeit too much of their respective identities.

Heinz Verdurft

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 October 1983)

## Life after the missiles are deployed

Besides, both sides had made provocative statements that made tempers flare up beforehand.

Hotheads in the peace movement threatened to make the country ungovernable if missile modernisation went ahead and to oust the government and end the present set-up by holding a general strike.

Hotheads on the other side accused the peace movement of being a fifth column of Moscow's and an anti-peace movement and of practising social sabotage.

Verbal escalation was not followed by corresponding deeds. Never before has Germany witnessed such imaginative forms of protest.

The police have come to realise that it is not just a rerun of the 1968 unrest and that a new generation is having its say in a new way.

Not far nothing has Sir Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning "Gandhi" been such a box office success this year.

The government is somewhat at a loss on how to deal with the phenomenon. Chancellor Kohl continues to argue that his election victory last March gave

the streets during peace week were not radicals or potential extremists, for whom nothing but the threat of the big stick was appropriate.

They were ordinary people making use of their constitutional rights, even though they may have taken them to the extreme on occasion.

The legal precautions taken by Bonn and the constant appeals made by politicians showed yet again that many politicians still have a very limited concept of democracy.

It is one in which the responsible citizen only exists as a regulated individual ordered about by the authoritarian state.

It would be unfortunate indeed if the peaceful course of the week's demonstrations were not to make some people in Bonn reconsider.

There can no longer be any denying the peace movement that its autumn campaign was a success. What it organised was truly impressive.

It, and not the anti-nuclear campaign of the 1950s or the extra-parliamentary Opposition of the late 1960s, can now claim to be the largest protest movement in the history of the Federal Republic.

Yet it would be fateful if the peace movement were to infer from the number of people who took part that it represents a majority of public opinion, as one of its spokesmen, Jo Leinen, has done.

Such claims are not substantiated by references to the 50 or 75 per cent of people who have said in polls that they are against deploying new missiles either.

Opinion polls are no entitlement, and the peace movement would be ill advised

Two positive experiences and a query arise from the peace movement's week of demonstrations in which an estimated three million Germans took to the streets.

They demonstrated in support of disarmament and against the deployment of new US missiles in the Federal Republic of Germany.

First, and despite the increasingly serious nature of the dispute over how external peace is to be preserved, domestic peace was not breached.

The political system of the second German republic has shown maturity in its ability to handle conflicts outside parliament.

Second, the old consensus on security policy is on the way out. There seems to be a change of mind extending beyond the peace week.

It is a change the government cannot afford to ignore in the long run, unless that is, it is determined to return to the Opposition benches in the Bundestag.

The query is what will happen when the first missiles have been deployed and the Russians have quit the conference table.

The non-violence of the week of demonstrations was indeed, as Social Democrat Hans-Jochen Vogel put it, "a great step forward in the political culture of our democracy."

Politicians and officialdom were expecting the worst in view of memories of the 1968 extra-parliamentary Opposition.

The Federal Republic is undoubtedly the brink of an important process of clarification on this point.

Conservative politicians such as Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann and his parliamentary state secretary Carl-Dieter Spranger will find arguments more difficult to sustain.

With reference to the hot autumn that so far failed to materialise they turned back the wheel of liberalisation and would clearly like to impose more restrictions.

The words of warning spoken by Ministers and state secretaries in connection with the peace movement's activities are seen in retrospect to have been only too right.

The millions of people who took to



# Bonn defence white paper says war is not imminent

There is no imminent danger of war in Europe, the Bonn government's newly-published defence white paper says.

But with the Warsaw Pact steadily gaining military superiority, Western Europe is increasingly liable to be subjected to political pressure.

Failing an appropriate counter-weight, a situation could arise in which NATO countries in Europe were no longer able to withstand such pressure.

They could then be blackmailed, the white paper argues. Entitled Peace in Freedom, it contains five main chapter headings.

They are: 1. The Situation of the Federal Republic of Germany; 2. The Threat; 3. The Atlantic Alliance; 4. NATO Strategy; and 5. Arms Control and Disarmament.

The central topic is NATO's strategy to prevent war in connection with the pact's security policy and, as a major aspect of security policy, the arms control negotiations.

The aim is to ensure equal security for all European countries with as low a military profile as possible, combined with developing cooperation with the East.

Special mention is made of the commitment to reunification, of NATO membership and equally firm commitment to the Western alliance and of the principle of balance of power.

"It is," the white paper says, "a policy that has to prevail against the Soviet Union, a great power keen to gain political control over Europe by means of military superiority."

The hopes that were placed in arms control in the 1970s are said not to have been fulfilled, with the Soviet arms build-up being to blame.

The Bonn government and its allies have made constructive proposals for a reduction in the number of weapons on both sides.

But the Soviet Union has been clearly told that arms control and disarmament are not available at any price.

There can be no question of jeopardising one's own security, none of forfeiting political independence and none of jeopardising peace in freedom.

## Concession needed

There is time until the end of 1983 in which to iron out the remaining difficulties at the INF talks in Geneva, and there are prospects of the two sides coming to terms on an interim agreement.

But if the Geneva talks are to achieve results the Soviet Union must abandon its demand for British and French nuclear systems to be included in the missile count.

Moscow must come to terms with the fact that Western European countries have the same right to security as the Soviet Union.

Progress in general can only be made in Geneva if NATO stands firm on the dual-track missiles-and-talks decision.

The countries where Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles (and the Pershing 2 is not a first-strike weapon) must reaffirm

## Saarbrücker Zeitung

their determination to go ahead if the Geneva talks fail to achieve results.

In the circumstances it would be irresponsible to delay stationing if the missile talks have made no headway by mid-November.

The possibility of war breaking out by virtue of a technical hitch or by mistake can be ruled out, the white paper says. There is a wide range of checks to make sure it never happens.

As for the global balance of power, the Soviet Union has attained parity in strategic nuclear systems and even has the edge over the West in land-based ICBMs.

At the same time the Soviet Union has emerged as a great naval power.

Regionally, and in the shadow of the strategic nuclear balance, the Soviet Union is said to have built up a medium-range potential against which NATO has nothing comparable to offer.

In short-range nuclear weapon systems, the Warsaw Pact is enhancing its numerical superiority over NATO by introducing the SS-21, 22 and 23 missiles, a new generation and a clear improvement in quality over their predecessors.

Bonn has ruled out postponement of missile modernisation and any idea of dispensing with theatre nuclear weapons in Europe.

Defence Minister Manfred Wörner has uncompromisingly rejected "all so-called alternative strategy models."

All alternative concepts, he told a Bundestag hearing in Bonn, entailed greater risks to peace in freedom than the existing NATO doctrine of flexible response did.

So, for the foreseeable future, the present doctrine seemed the best way to prevent war. But as time went by it naturally had to be "adjusted" to changing circumstances.

Such adjustments included boosting conventional defence capability and reducing the number of short-range tactical nuclear weapons deployed.

Karlstein Voigt, the SPD Bundestag MP, has called for missile modernisation to be postponed, combined with calling on Moscow to start scrapping SS-20 systems.

Herr Wörner said that the Soviet Union, despite unilateral and prior concessions by the West, had constantly kept up its arms build-up in recent years.

Since the December 1979 dual-track NATO decision it had had four years in which to contribute toward preventing further upward spirals in the arms race.

Further delays could end up with NATO no longer being able to guarantee a defence capability. To abandon the missile modernisation part of the dual-track decision would end any incentive for the Soviet Union to cut back on its arms build-up.

The West could not dispense entirely with theatre nuclear weapons, Herr

These short-range missiles cannot be claimed as a response to missile modernisation by the West.

The white paper says effective Western defence is possible, with the Bundeswehr playing an important part in it.

Given the Warsaw Pact's superiority, conventional defence capacity calls for a high level of training, equipment and armament, not to mention readiness to commit manpower and material.

If defence preparedness is to be achieved in time, it will be crucially important to put the advance warning period to good use.

This applies in particular to political and military decisions on troop build-ups and reinforcement of allied forces in Europe, including troops airlifted from the United States.

Warning period, strength of existing units, mobilisation and logistical support are factors that must be coordinated so as to make defence preparedness near the border possible with forces available before an attack begins.

Forward defensive capacity is determined in the final analysis by available manpower and material reserves.

As for Germany's defence contribution, the Federal Republic is said to be the only NATO member-country to have assigned all its troops except the territorial units to NATO command in peacetime.

## Battlefield atom weapons 'here to stay'

Wörner said, conventional weapons were not a fully adequate substitute.

He mentioned the fact that funds were limited and that manpower too would be limited in the 1990s because of low birth-rate years due to oral contraception.

No government could afford to conventionalise defence. The economic and social sacrifices the public would have to make would be too great.

Besides, dispensing with nuclear weapons in Europe would split NATO down the middle. The United States would then be on its own in running the risk of stationing nuclear weapons.

That was why he was opposed to ideas of a nuclear-free zone in Europe.

All known alternatives, he said, amounted to a strategic withdrawal from parts of the Federal Republic to gain time and regroup in the event of an attack.

Thirty per cent of the population and a quarter of the country's industrial potential were within 100 km of the intra-German border.

So there was no alternative to forward defence as close to the border as possible.

He rejected proposals by General Gert Bastian (retd.), the Green MP, for a militia system as an interim solution prior to withdrawal from NATO and a system of "social-defence of active non-violent resistance."

Such ideas, he said, were an impractical

There are 36 Bundeswehr and six territorial brigades. Up to 50 per cent of NATO land forces in Central Europe.

They also account for 80 per cent of the ground-to-air defence and 30 per cent of its strength in this sector.

On its northern flank the Bundeswehr maintains a third of NATO's conventional forces, including 70 per cent of NATO's ground-to-air defence and 100 per cent of its air defence.

Bonn's defence spending is 1.1 per cent of GDP, or 1.1 per cent of NATO's total DM58.95bn.

The white paper stresses the importance of the forward defence posture. It entails defending NATO territory under the harshest conditions, to surrendering no territory.

## Population spread

Thirty per cent of the population of the Federal Republic live in the 100km of the intra-German border zone (that also accounts for 25 per cent of the country's industry).

This being so, there can be no alternative to forward defence as close to the Federal Republic as possible.

The Bundeswehr is equipped with modern weapon systems to enable it to defend the country successfully against the new systems have improved conventional fighting strength substantially.

In this context the white paper mentions the Leopard Mk 2 tank, the multi-role combat aircraft and the 122-class frigate.

Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic, said in his New Year message that the

means of offering resistance to an enemy equipped with tanks and advanced and mobile units.

Besides, the "social defence" concept was based on the assumption that the enemy was first allowed to enter one's territory.

NATO's strategic aim was to prevent war of any kind. Dispensing with nuclear weapons would lead to a situation in which NATO would feel more readily disposed to permit its conventional superiority.

Bonn's aim was to raise the threshold by strengthening conventional defences.

Social Democrat Erwin Hennrich said NATO strategy is in the threefold aim of preventing a nuclear war, of maintaining peace and of maintaining the credibility crisis because the effect of threatening to commit nuclear weapons is lost.

That, Herr Wörner said, was because the situation and the free world which strategy was based on had not sufficiently put across to the public the SPD-led governments.

As far as can be judged by the ten submissions to date, most will be in favour of gradually modifying the current response strategy, with the emphasis on conventional capacity.

But a small minority favours reorganisation on militia lines.

Such ideas, he said, were an impractical

## THE THIRD WORLD

# EEC accused over Lomé Convention agreement

The appointment among ACP countries is growing over cooperation with the EEC.

ACP countries (African, Caribbean, Pacific) are negotiating in Luxembourg the next Lomé Convention.

The white paper stresses the importance of the forward defence posture. It entails defending NATO territory under the harshest conditions, to surrendering no territory.

The economic position of most ACP countries is worse today than it was ten years ago, says the group's chairman, Senegal's Foreign Minister Arhild.

The beginning of the talks was marked by accusations and demands levelled by him at the EEC.

Since the previous conventions have been little. They were Yaounde I (1964-69) and Yaounde II (1970-75) respectively. The Lomé Convention covers 17 African states plus Madagascar, Lomé covering 1976 to 1980 plus 11 states since 1981 which includes 46 ACP countries.

The EEC rejects these sweeping accusations. It points to the fact that the number of Third World parties to the convention has risen to 63 and that the new fighting strength substantially.

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The ACP countries say that the duty-free access to the Community market is not the most important factor because their shipments to the Community are increasingly hampered by non-tariff obstacles.

The EEC recently had to concede that the rise in ACP exports to the community had fallen short of expectations "despite the near complete openness of the EEC market."

Only a small number of ACP countries "benefited greatly" from the Convention while the position of the majority — especially the poorest countries of Africa — has deteriorated, the EEC admits.

The Community also admits that the Stabex system introduced with the first Lomé Convention did not develop the way the ACP partners had hoped.

Stabex was designed as a safety net against poor commodity years.

If the export earnings from an important commodity — coffee, cocoa, peanuts, tea, sisal — decline against the previous year's average (because of poor harvests, natural disasters or falling prices on world markets) the Stabex Fund offsets the losses. This is usually repayable except in the case of the 35 least developed countries.

The Lomé I Stabex Fund of DM1bn spread over five years was still sufficient.

But the number of applications for offset payments has risen steeply since 1980 and the present DM1.4bn Fund for Lomé II is far from enough to meet all claims.

It is therefore not surprising that the ACP delegates call for a considerable boost of the overall financial aid in Lomé III.

Relations between the European Community and Latin America are to be put on a new footing.

The European Parliament has hammered out a concept, welcomed by the Brussels Commission, for a "cohesive economic, financial and development cooperation."

The countries of Central and South America are by and large still white spots on the Community's map of foreign relations.

Unlike with the Asean and ACP countries, there are virtually no coordinated ties between the EEC and Latin America. Only with the Comecon countries are relations equally poor.

Cooperation agreements exist only with Mexico and Brazil. But the Federal Republic of Germany has traditionally had close ties with Brazil. It has a bilateral cooperation agreement with it.

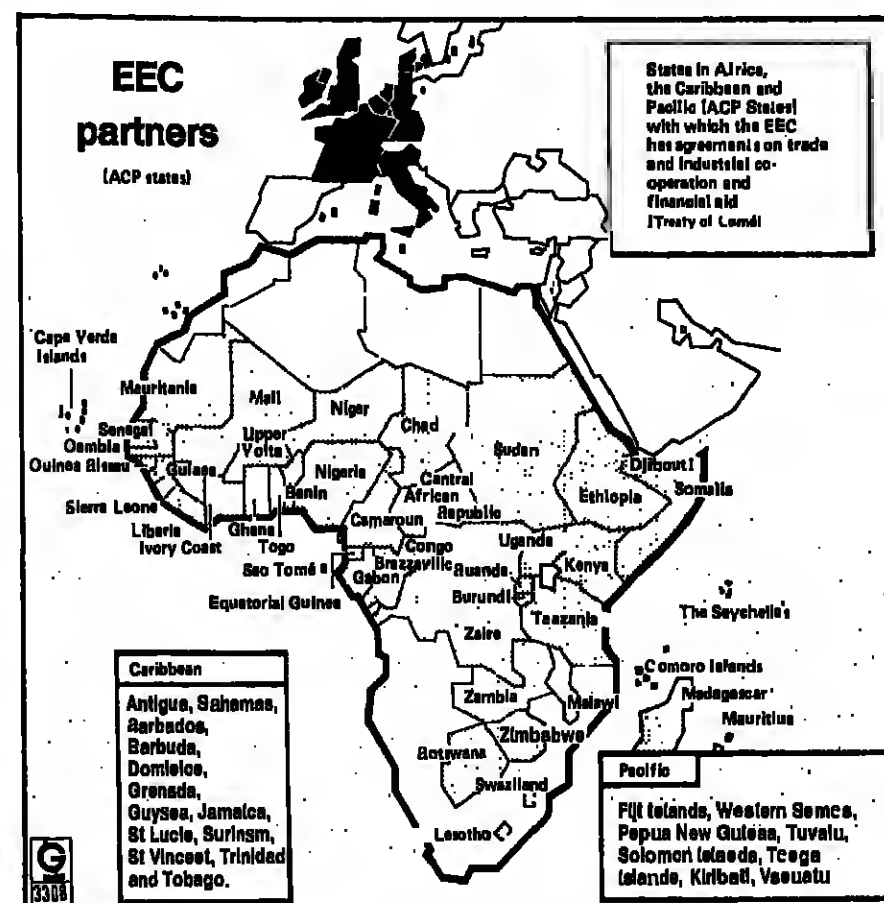
But these agreements have not led to concrete results, says German Euro-MP Jochen van Arssen (CDU).

Apart from specialised sectors, there are no regional agreements whatsoever and the trade balance sheet has worsened.

The 25 Latin American countries' share in the Community's overall foreign trade declined rapidly in the last few years and is now stagnating.

This has prompted the European Parliament to seize the initiative without legal authority.

Both sides are prepared to make a



The EEC is putting up stiff resistance to the demand for additional money.

The Brussels Commission, negotiating on behalf of the ten member nations, has been given rather vague guidelines by the Council of Ministers.

The financially hard pressed Community nations are reluctant to let themselves be pinned down in terms of figures.

Even the duration of Lomé III is a hotly disputed topic. Some want it to be five years again. Others, including EEC Development Aid Commissioner Edgar Pisani, favour an unlimited period.

The ACP countries are rather disappointed over the fact that the EEC's concept has not progressed much beyond such slogans as "bettering what has been achieved so far."

An ACP delegate: "Whenever we speak of money, the EEC speaks of strategies."

For instance, the EEC stresses the necessity of giving agricultural development absolute priority in Lomé III.

A cohesive food strategy is aimed at gradually enabling the ACP countries to become self-sufficient.

Still, the EEC concedes that continued cooperation is in both its own and the ACP countries' interest and that the developing nations are not supplicants.

Their raw materials are of major importance for the future of the Community's industry.

Hans-Peter Ott  
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,  
14 October 1983)

## A new deal for Latin America worked out

new start. The Latin American countries have even said that they are willing to create a common executive body that would be able to negotiate with the EEC Council of Ministers on its own level.

Van Arssen has described this as a "political sensation."

His recommendation of a four-phase plan has met with almost unanimous approval by both the European Parliament and the EEC Commission. The plan calls for:

● A framework agreement between the European Community and the Sistema Económico Latino-Americano (Sela), a Latin American economic organisation. Sela includes almost all Latin American countries, including Cuba.

● The conclusion of regional agreements. Here, the Andean Pact plays a major role. Its member nations — Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador — are ready to sign a cooperation agreement. The EC suspended the negotiations when Bolivia's military seized power in 1980. It is now prepared to arrive at a swift conclusion because Bolivia has returned to democracy.

● The establishment of a Euro-Latin American bank, an institute for Latin American contacts and the expansion of the Community's most favoured nation system to include the truly poor countries of Latin America.

Ulrich Lohr  
(Die Welt, 20 October 1983)



Ideas he has in common with his execu



## ■ TECHNOLOGY

## New Volkswagen Golf is a robot creation

Volkswagen's main plant in Wolfsburg is the world's largest single car-production plant.

The most popular Volkswagen, the Beetle, has sold more than any model in history: 20 million.

The Beetle's successor, the Golf, has sold well over six million units since its introduction in 1974.

But now it is ready to be phased out and the first of the new generation, Golf II, are rolling off the assembly line — almost untouched by human hand.

Golf II is almost entirely robot-made. The similarity between the two Golfs is superficial. The latest model is entirely new. The only thing it has in common with the original model is three of its six engine options.

It has cost DM2.1bn to develop, DM400m before production began and the remaining DM1.6bn for new plant and equipment. And of this DM1bn, was spent on building a brand new plant, Assembly Hall 54.

Why spend so much money on a car that is apparently only the younger brother of the original Golf?

The new design had to come up with

more than just a more pleasing appearance, additional space and lower fuel consumption.

It had to be suitable for robot assembly from beginning to end — not only because robot production is cheaper but also because it is more accurate.

The results can now be seen in Hall 54 and the adjoining Hall 12 where production ends.

Hall 54 with its 120,000 square metres of two-storey floor area is where parts are assembled into modules.

The upper storey has the world's largest facility for the automatic mounting of the body.

The assembly and completion of the engine by robots, including the starter and the fanbelt, is done on the ground floor.

Different production lines complete the gear assembly. Among the robot-made parts are also the front with its radiator, lights, horn and many other parts.

Components assembled on the ground floor go to the upper storey where they are fitted by robots to the already sprayed body.

More than 300 screws must be inserted, a delicate job.

The work has to be precise because unless the one robot does its job well the next will fail.

The robots, all of them made by Volkswagen, still lack flexibility. So there are a few jobs in Hall 54 that have to be done by man.

They include assembling the cooling hoses and laying electrical cables.

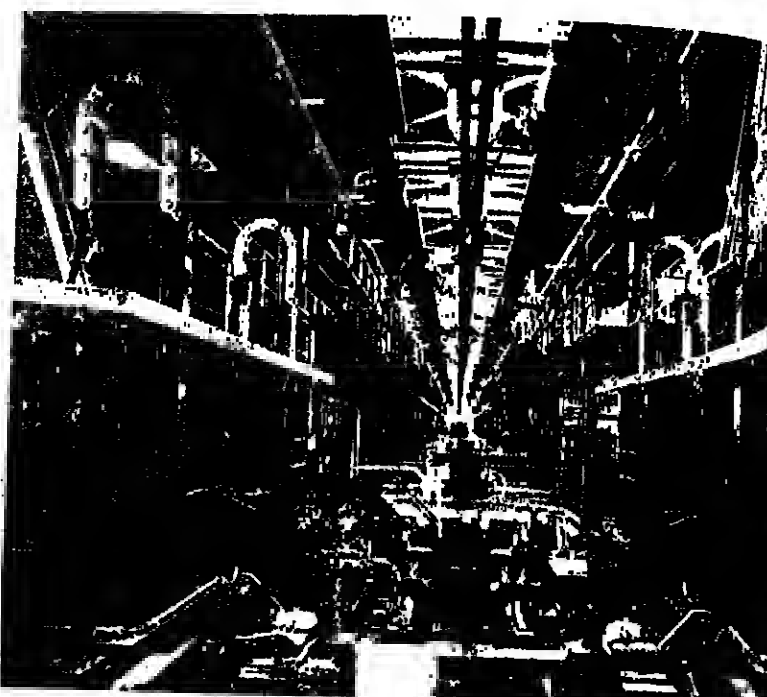
Once the upper storey assembly work in Hall 54 has been completed, lifts take the cars to the ground floor for the finishing touches.

In the process, the cars undergo extensive automatic quality controls with very low tolerance levels.

It is not the buyer who demands this degree of precision but the robots whose work is not yet completed. Much of the work done by the robots in Hall 54 has never been seen by the buyer.

In the final stages of assembly, robots insert the fuel lines in a tunnel in the body and clip them into place.

The battery is also built in automatically. So is the brake system, the weirdly shaped plastic fuel tank (which has to fit into an oddly shaped place to save space) and the exhaust assembly.



The world of the robots: VW works at Wolfsburg.

Robots screw the front axle to the body.

The completely assembled front section has its lights mounted by robots. They also screw on the wheels according to programmed customers' wishes, automatically sorting out the ordered tyre sizes and flanges. Even the spare wheel as ordered is put in place.

The fact that there has been no layoffs is due to a buying boom which allows VW to use the redundant people elsewhere. It is also due to the thorough and long-term planning of the new Golf production.

But unlike with the start of production for other successful VW models, there was no new hiring for the Golf.

VW executives point to the fact that dirty and strenuous assembly line work — like overhead work — now falls mainly on the shoulders of men. It is a sign of progress if robots did not help VW compete with Japanese carmakers.

There is no denying the fact that robots can help humanise work. The word "robot" comes from the Slavic word "robota", which means servitude.

But the robot not only does away with unpleasant work. It also eliminates tolerable jobs.

But not having robots would destroy even more jobs.

Developments at VW are typical of automation in other industries.

As opposed to previous boom years, when industry usually boosted its labour force, now it is extremely cautious about hiring. **Hans-Helmut Bergemann** (Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 14 October 1983)

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Wolfgang Schmieg  
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 24 October 1983)

## THE ENVIRONMENT

## Rate of tree deaths is accelerating — minister

Tests in the Federal Republic of Germany are dying much faster than in the past, says the Agriculture Ministry.

In autumn last year, says Agriculture Minister Ignatz Kiechle, the latest comprehensive statistics showed that 2.5 million trees, or 6.25 million acres, to have died of the new tree disease attributed to atmospheric pollution.

It is over a third of total woodland in the country. The hardest-hit areas are in the Rhine-Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg regions of the Mittelgebirge range, with 400,000 and 300,000 acres of fir trees.

The most devastated parts of the country are the Black Forest in the west and the mountains along the border of Bavaria.

Increasing damage is reported in the Harz mountains, between Hanover and Göttingen, the Eggegebirge in east-westphalia and in the Sauerland region.

Only 8 out of 10 fir trees are in the country, either suffering from serious or moderate damage. But spruce and pine are increasingly infected too.

In Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Rhine-Westphalia between 60 and 70 per cent of pine trees have been damaged. Deciduous trees seem to be more resistant.

The only deciduous tree to show clear signs of being pollution-hit is the beech, says Kiechle. A comprehensive survey of the situation throughout the country is not yet possible, but he is alarmed at the dramatic deterioration in the condition of forest acreage in Germany.

Experts are largely agreed that there is usually a combination of causes. Pollutants that may be to blame include sulphur dioxide, heavy metals, nitric oxides and photo-oxidants.

Others are frost, dryness, pests and silvicultural influences. But the experts are convinced the problem would not arise were it not for atmospheric pollution.

The percentages of woodland hit are, by region: 12 in Schleswig-Holstein, 17 in Lower Saxony, 35 in North Rhine-Westphalia, 14 in Hesse, 23 in the Rhineland-Palatinate, 49 in Baden-Württemberg, 46 in Bavaria, 11 in the Saar.

The countrywide percentage is 34, and Volker Hauff, deputy leader of the SPD in the Bonn Bundestag, says Herr Kiechle's report is a scandal.

The Minister, he said, had named not a single specific measure to combat atmospheric pollution.

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summer has accelerated the process. The increase of trees classified as seriously ill and largely doomed to die has nearly doubled since autumn 1982.

The trees that are particularly hard-hit seldom stand side by side. "Thank heavens the situation in this country isn't as depressing as it is in the Erzgebirge," Herr Kiechle says.

The Erzgebirge is in the neighbouring GDR, where it runs along the border with Czechoslovakia.

Forestry officials are taking care to fell dying trees as soon as possible and avoid quality losses caused by the spread of pests such as the bark beetle.

Herr Kiechle is confident that by using fertiliser in certain cases woodland can be revitalised, especially in areas low in nutrient.

"We must make use of every opportunity forestry provides of slowing down and alleviating the course of damage," he says.

Dead trees must be replaced by newly planted saplings as soon as possible, planting more deciduous trees wherever possible.

"Where woodland stands today," he says, "woodland must stand in 25 years' time."

The new pollution damage has been reported on a large scale since 1981, the Ministry report claims. The silver fir was the first tree to suffer; that was in the early 1970s.

By the end of the decade spruce trees showed increasing signs of being affected.

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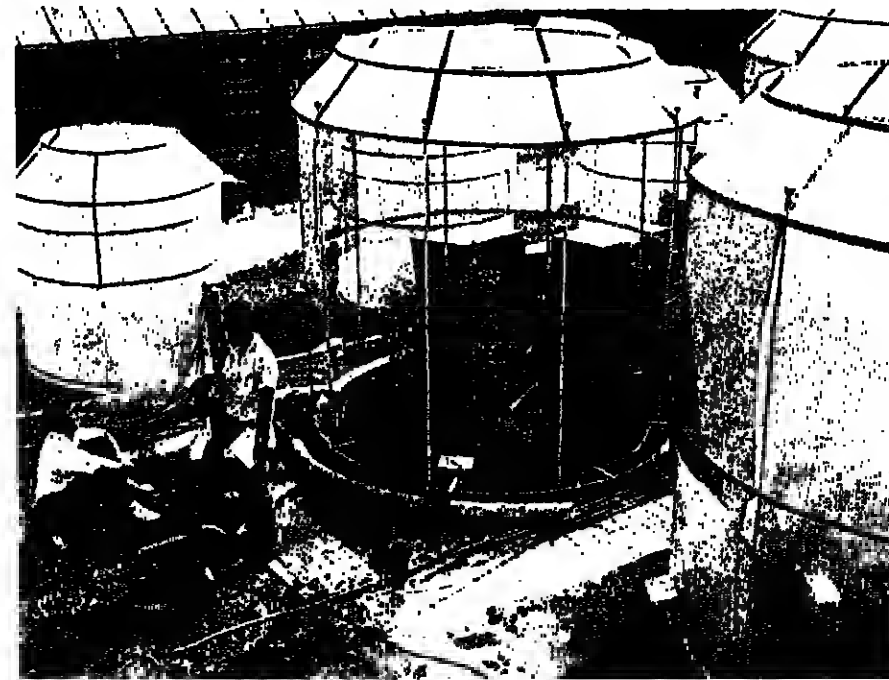
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## Why are they dying?

Researchers at Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, use these transparent housings to simulate forest conditions in an attempt to find the causes of tree deaths. (Photo: dpa)

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## Despair over timber damage

A Hesse forestry officer, Karl Friedrich Wentzel, told the Bundestag's home affairs committee that the forests of Central Europe face their worst crisis since reforestation began 200 years ago.

"We are seriously worried what turn events will take next," the head of the German Forestry Industry Council, Alexander von Elbersfeld, told MPs.

He said over 34 per cent of the surface area of German forests was already damaged.

The committee was briefed in detail by experts from industry, the trade unions, environmental groups and scientific research.

It was the first hearing of its kind, and MPs were informed at length on the extent and causes of trees dying and what could be done to stop the rot.

It was clear that trade union and environmental experts, landowners and forestry officials all felt that atmospheric pollution was mainly to blame.

Industrial experts warned against apportioning the blame too one-sidedly before the causes were absolutely clear.

Scientists suspect all manner of causes, with parts being played by the climate, by the nature of the soil and by parasites.

Industrial spokesman opposed intensifying exhaust regulations at present. They were particularly opposed to proposed amendments to the regulations governing factory and power station chimneys.

Amendments are demanded by both Bonn opposition parties, the Social Democrats and the Greens, and by the trade unions and landowners.

Unless exhaust fumes were drastically reduced, one speaker claimed, forestry subsidies in the decade ahead would exceed combined current expenditure on subsidies to coal, steel and shipbuilding.

Herr Wentzel, senior forestry director at the Hesse state environmental research establishment, said he had drawn attention to the catastrophic trend in a research project undertaken 30 years ago.

He had then left the Ruhr because no-one there had shown interest in his findings.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 25 October 1983)

## Acid rain 'not primary cause' of forest destruction

range of causes, few of which are really known.

Acid rain is currently associated with three main cycles that are felt to bear the blame: the burden on the soil, direct damage to tree tops and the effect of gases, including ozone.

VDI experts were not satisfied, arguing that other, as yet unknown factors in all probability played a part.

They made no attempt to dismiss as insignificant the damage done by sulphur dioxide, three and a half million tonnes of which per year are pumped into the atmosphere, mainly via coal-fired power station chimneys.

But they felt it was too simple to assume that sulphur dioxide, a gas, was precipitated as harmful sulphuric acid. Nature was more complex.

In keeping with the general tenor of current public debate, they pay keen attention to the role of nitric oxides, seemingly straightforward but in the final analysis extremely complex compounds consisting of nitrogen and oxygen.

The sulphur dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is said to have remained virtually unchanged over the past 10 years.

But the industrialised nations were pumping more and more nitric oxides

into the atmosphere: three million tonnes a year in the Federal Republic alone.

Daddy enough, progress was to blame. With engines making steadily better use of fuel by improving combustion, exhaust fumes contained less carbon monoxide but more nitric oxides.

A combined total of over six million tonnes of sulphur dioxide and nitric oxides were joined, or so the VDI panel estimated, by one and a half million tonnes of hydrocarbons of one kind and another.

This mixture in the air we breathe, a VDI



## For translators, a place to exchange words

### STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Straelen, population 8000, is a small town near the Dutch border. Its nearest neighbour of any size is Venlo, seven miles south-west and in Holland.

Straelen is a prosperous centre of the flower trade. Since 1978 it has also been the home of the European College of Translators.

The college, launched on the initiative of Straelen-born Elmar Tophoven, is a unique rendezvous of literary translators from all over the world and the only institution of its kind in Europe.

Tophoven is the German translator of Samuel Beckett and modern French novelists ranging from Nathalie Sarraute to Claude Simon.

He knew from long personal experience that despite the existence of a professional organisation literary translators were totally dependent on the good will of their publishers.

This was partly because they lacked a centre to promote solidarity within their own ranks.

So he decided that peaceful, quiet Straelen, in the heart of Europe midway between Lisbon and Helsinki, to quote the blurb, was just the place for such a centre.

And he persuaded the local council, which was keen on the prestige, to back the idea. North Rhine-Westphalia, the Land, was persuaded too.

The college is currently run on a budget of between DM300,000 and DM400,000 which it hopes to increase to half a million before long.

It is housed, for the time being, in a single building containing accommodation for visiting scholars, a library to which annual additions worth DM20,000 to DM30,000 are made, and a pair of computers, complete with their collection of floppy discs.

But the centre has made such a name for itself that extensions are planned. One aim is to rent a separate room for each language from which books are translated into German.

Translators from these various languages would then have all the tools of their trade at the ready.

Less widespread languages would, says the college's adroit and dynamic business manager Klaus Birkenhauer, share a room.

The grants the college is given are for the most part pegged to specific projects. They include a 'Frösch' edition of the works of Theodor Fontane and a set of special industrial dictionaries.

Two or three translators are invariably in residence. In return for the hospitality they are given they leave behind a fund of professional experience.

The centre sees one of its tasks as that of providing a reference service for terminology, but at present it lacks the staff needed to do the task justice.

It has no claims or ambitions to work as a research institute, but it arranges translation sessions in team work and files the findings for use by others.

The two computers are an invaluable aid that would be far too expensive for private individuals to buy and keep up.

Besides, at Straelen they find their 200 discs, each storing the equivalent of 120 pages of reference material, can be put to good use.

But discs, like tapes, are subject to wear and tear, so sooner or later the files will need to be published in book form. The Straelen translators envisage launching a publishing house of their own.

Two special glossaries have been compiled so far. One is a glossary of German prison slang compiled by a translator with "inside" knowledge.

Prison slang, he has discovered, is largely identical with the slang expressions favoured by young people, although it is too early to jump to conclusions.

Last year a glossary of Nazi terminology was compiled. Its purpose is to record for generations that no longer have personal experience of the Third Reich the key concepts of the period.

Straelen has been in existence for about five years, during which time roughly 50 events have been held, including encounters of translators from East and West.

The tangible results have included anthologies of modern Dutch, Swedish and Bulgarian poetry and a German translation of the Hungarian poet Sandor Csodori.

Work is in progress on an anthology of avant-garde poetry from smaller European countries, such as Finland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Poland.

The Bertelsmann Foundation bunkers further education seminars for translators.

The most recent seminar, held at the end of September, was attended by the half-dozen or so German translators from the Portuguese.

They considered how little-known Portuguese writing could best be promoted and made known to a wider public with the aid of the Portuguese Book Institute and the Portuguese bookshop in Frankfurt.

The college is a source of invaluable information for all translators. Freelance translators ply a trade that is as precarious as ever it was.

German copyright law is exemplary, says Birkenhauer, but when translators are at loggerheads with their publishers

## Top literary prize goes to Frankfurt writer

The German Academy of Language and Literature began its annual conference in Darmstadt with a three-day presidential debate on the language of the Bible.

But its annual awards were made to contemporary writers, the DM30,000 Georg Büchner Prize, for instance, going to Wolf Dieter Schnurre.

Schnurre, 63, is a Frankfurt-born writer who has been a member of the academy since 1959. He has written poems, satire, stories and children's books.

Last year he won the literature award of the city of Cologne.

The Johann Heinrich Merck Prize for literary criticism and essay-writing went to Albrecht Schöne, 58, president of the International Germanic Studies Association.

the courts often know far too little on the subject.

So every contract aligned with a publisher continues to be an act of submission that is used, more or less elegantly, to pull the wool over the translator's eyes.

But a social security fund for writers and artists has been set up in Wilhelmshaven. It collects contributions from employers and insures members luxuriously.

Places like Bud Godesberg, a suburb of Bonn, are viewed kindly as the home of many an ambitious young artist and writer who is seldom ill and helps to ensure that contributions are low.

The literary translators who earn the most money seem to be those who translate children's books and books written mainly for entertainment.

Translations of books with any pretensions to literary merit are not the road to riches.

Translators of highbrow books need to translate five pages a day (or eight in the case of a five-day week) to gross the 2,000 pages needed to earn the DM40,000 a year required to maintain a family of four.

That is clearly almost impossible, quite apart from the problem of keeping the contracts coming in at the rate required.

So the work of the Verwertungsgesellschaft Wort in Munich is of inestimable importance. It is an agency that scans the media to ensure that copyright fees are paid.

They are misled on lendings by public libraries, on readings on radio and TV and, of course, on reprints the copyright-holder might otherwise never come across.

The agency runs a welfare fund that lends unbureaucratic assistance to colleagues in need, and a swift helping hand is often needed by translators laid up in hospital for any length of time.

Translators have always been neglected, witness their relegation to the inside pages of the books they translate.

The college is keen to see them named on the title page alongside the original author's name. German readers, it urges, naturally read Tophoven, not Beckett, Kroeber, not Calvinn, and Meyer-Clausen, not Márquez.

It depends of the translator's skill whether the artistic value of the original survives in translation.

So Straelen is determined to ensure that a profession which has long been subjected to discrimination is upgraded once and for all.

Georg Rudolf Lind  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 October 1983)

The Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific writing went to Cologne political scientist Peter Graf Kielmannsegg, 46. The two awards are each worth DM10,000.

The academy was set up on 28 August 1949 during the ceremony held in the Paulskirche, Frankfurt, to mark Goethe's birth bicentenary.

Its brief is to represent German writing at home and abroad and to encourage careful use of the German language in art and science, public and private.

Previous Büchner Prize-winners have included Carl Zuckmayer, Erich Kästner, Heinrich Böll and Martin Walser.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 20 October 1983)

## A look at the Bible written

### Frankfurter Neue Presse

The Language of the Bible: Our Own Language? was debated at this year's conference of the German Academy of Language and Literature in Darmstadt.

The answer depends. It depends on what "our language" means. Standard German? Or is "our" to be understood as the language of the reader and his or her expectations of being able to understand it?

That would raise a number of questions. Is the Bible a language of the past? Or is it a language of the present? The five experts were agreed on the creative language played by Martin Luther as the Bible translator.

Professors Bamer, Ben-Chen, Heckmann, Lohfink and Stein also agreed on the difficulties of translating the Bible into German.

Luther's Bible was a uniformity that laid the groundwork for the German in its present form. His style, his language and his fluency, strongly apparent from Brecht, are so powerful that the hewn yardstick by which every since written is judged.

Luther's command of his language was problematic. Professor said. The Greek Bible is recognised as a collection of distinctive books, but Luther's is linguistically uniform.

Yet the Bible was originally written over a period of 1,000 years. It differs from the books of laws and the New Testament is different from the Old Testament.

That, said Professor Ben-Chen, why Buber and Rosenzweig had before the Third Reich to make a translation that would bring the Bible closer to the original Hebrew.

In doing so they felt the need for new words in German. They sought to provide an alternative to Luther's translation in a German comparable in fullness and power with the Greek and its roots, extending to Melster Ekkehart.

Professor Steiner said he felt he had been very much at loggerheads with himself. The Reformer sensibly to do the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the ideas behind it. At the same time he was revolted by Jews.

"If Luther's language were to become a basis of modern German," said, "then this deep dissonance forms part of German."

Asking what rights German has to relation to the Old Testament, he said: "If a dialogue is impossible, that remains the deficiency of the practice of recollection."

Yet Freud, Marx, Wittgenstein and Benjamin continued to stand in the shadow of Luther's Bible.

Paul Celan had a possible answer. His poems "melt like two bricks" in prophecy. His poetry supplied bricks for a future German.

Continued on page 11

## EDUCATION

## A school tries to live down its blue-blood reputation

Salem school, in the Baden-Württemberg town of Salem, was founded in 1934 by Prince Max of Baden and his secretary, Kurt Hahn.

It is still fighting the reputation of an expensive school for the rich. Reputation was not dulled by the fact that Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and a relative of Prince Max, was a student at Salem in 1934.

Each year, former pupils turn out for a reunion. The big attendances and generous donations reflect this loyalty.

There is one decisive qualification for admittance to Salem, says Dr Bueb: the children must come of their own free will and must be prepared to become part of the community. Religion does not matter: the school has no ties with any church. Kurt Hahn was a Jew.

Problem children are a rarity at Salem, he says. "It is not our function to rectify family or previous school problems. A boarding school needs students who have already been properly reared."

He regards children with a happy background as suited to boarding school life. For them, the boarding school is simply a continuation of family upbringing. Difficulties at home were usually experienced by only children; children far apart in age; girls in a family of boys, or vice versa; and exceptionally talented children.

Dr Bueb cites a former Salem student who later became a world-famous violinist. One of his children suffered at home because it was less musically talented than its siblings.

Scholarships do not depend on special performance or above-average qualifications. And only the relevant committees and the principal know which students have scholarships.

By the same token, parents' donations — an unutterable how large — won't keep a child that has to be expelled at school.

"We won't turn down a donation, but it won't keep a delinquent child at school. There's no such thing as graft," says Dr Bueb.

The school now houses some 500 boys and girls in its three buildings: Burg Hohenfels for the younger ones (5th to 8th graders), a former Cistercian Abbey for the middle grades and Spetzgart House for the seniors (12th and 13th graders).

Each house has a some independence and its own housemaster. Classes are small, 20 or fewer, and three or four students share rather sparsely furnished rooms.

At least one afternoon a week must be devoted to the services. The whole thing is not a game but tough work with handicapped children, fire fighting and repairing bridges and old buildings.

There have also been some major efforts. Help was given during the 1981 earthquake in southern Italy, the 1971 oil slick on the Brittany coast and the 1962 flood in Florence.

Classes are small, 20 or fewer, and three or four students share rather sparsely furnished rooms.

Continued from page 10

the self-destructive aspect of the century might not be surmounted, the horror of it all was perceived in a single night.

On this basis alone could a new translation of the Old Testament be envisaged. The many new translations of the Bible, for Protestants, Catholics and young, were condemned, but the exiles were not satisfied with them either.

The outcome of the conference is best summed up by quoting Professor Lohfink: "The Bible is a language of the future."

Paul Celan had a possible answer. His poems "melt like two bricks" in prophecy. His poetry supplied bricks for a future German.

Continued on page 11

sive methods and sent their children to his school. Money was no object.

The students of those years later sent their own children to Salem. So many names that have helped shape German history keep appearing on school lists.

This loyalty demonstrates students' strong emotional ties to the school.

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Continued from page 9

mosphere via exhaust fumes. You can't see them, you can't hear them, no-one feels them and no-one measures them.

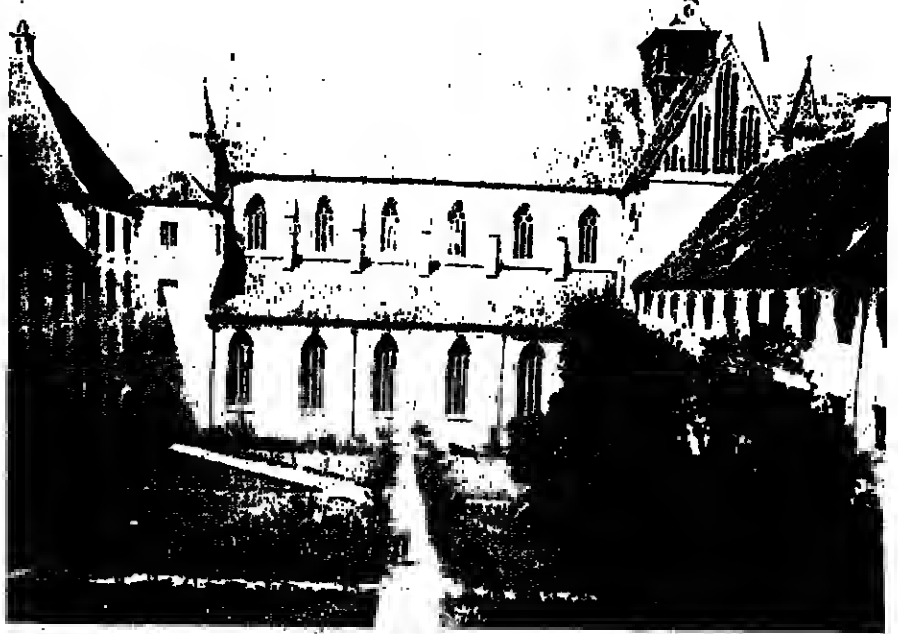
This is a point clearly made in the VDI report. The experts who compiled it voice their doubts about the conventional theories as to why trees are dying.

Acid rain, they say, is by no means as harmful as acid fog, which has so far gone largely unnoticed.

They try instead to see the soil as an extremely complex eco-system in which acid can be both a fertiliser and a toxin.

Light, they point out, is not just a source of life. It can also, as any photochemist knows, be a source of toxic energy that is the death of more than just fire trees.

Why, one wonders, have events only lately taken such a dramatic turn? The



Salem has never been more popular.

(Photo: iv)

tan living accommodation. They are looked after by tutors who provide something akin to family ties, assisted by "helpers" elected from the student body.

Student co-responsibility is a watchword at Salem. It has led to an intricate parliamentary system of duties and responsibilities.

Everybody is supposed to hold some office as a political exercise.

Salem follows Baden-Württemberg curricula and promotion regulations, but as a private school it has a great deal of freedom to go by Hahn's maxim that "learning by doing" is more important than amassing knowledge.

The rigid doctrine has been softened now and there is more emphasis on scholastic achievement.

But the idea is to practise social attitudes and help one's fellow men. The services include a fire brigade, a technical assistance unit, paramedical and social work for the aged and the handicapped and, lately, environmental work.

The services are supervised by teachers but are headed by students called captains.

Many young people give these non-academic activities as their reason for wanting to go to Salem.

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Continued from page 9

reader comes up with one question after another, regardless whether or not he is at ease with chemical formulas.

A reporter asks the assembled experts what conclusions must be drawn from the report.

What action can be taken, as a counterweight to the acid rain which, incidentally, was 100 to 1,000 times more acid in the industrial cities of Britain in 1872 than it is in Duisburg today?

The VDI experts say this is an impermissible simplification of the problem. They have no intention of apportioning blame or of staging witchhunts.

But it is soon apparent that the only option, either nationally or internationally, is no longer to view the air as a freely available commodity.

This emphasis on the practical goes even further. The school "guilds" enable the youngsters to learn a craft such as wrought iron work, carpentry, cooking and maintenance.

The training takes the students to the interim examination level for journeymen. Those who want a regular apprenticeship are given credit for the initial training at Salem. Three-week training courses outside the school have now been made available.

Salem provides committed teachers with a wide range of educational opportunities. But the students are faced with the danger of being sent out into a world less ordered and tougher than boarding school.

A former student says: "Salem's fair play doesn't apply to society at large." Another says: "Even failing special doesn't help."

But Dr Bueb is convinced that young people who have stood a school like Salem are better equipped to face life.

He concedes that there are no statistics on how many Salem graduates have made it in later life. But he is certain that preparing students for life in a large society is better done in boarding schools than in the small family of today.

He stresses that much depends on the individual: "Do you think any of our staff members would stay in Salem if they were not convinced that our educational model is extremely important for our students' futures? Would a Salem graduate send his own children to our school if he didn't agree with us?"

Siegfried Kräuse  
(Aldersbach Post, 15 October 1983)

The air we breathe must no longer be freely available as a dustbin for every one and a resting-place for dust or gases of one kind or another.

Asked what specific action they suggest, the technicians are reluctant to commit themselves. All counter-measures, they say, entail expense and restrictions.

The nitric oxide emission of car engines could be drastically reduced, Herr Prinz says, if we were to impose autobahn speed limits or make fuel lead-free.

There are ways and means that scientists could suggest; but it was up to the politicians, he said, to decide what action was actually taken.

What, he asked, do we have them for? What indeed?

Leonhard Spielhofer  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 October 1983)

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## ■ SPACE RESEARCH

# Economic motives prompted setting up of Hamburg observatory 150 years ago

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Astronomers have never found it easy to raise funds for their research work. Their science was long felt to be an unprofitable one. It still retains something of this reputation.

It was bound to be viewed with mixed feelings in a city like Hamburg with its appreciation of thrift and keen eye for profit.

So it is surprising that the parliament of what was then still an independent city-state decided 150 years ago, on 31 October 1833, to set up a civic observatory.

From modest beginnings it has grown into one of the leading astronomical research facilities in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This month, its sesquicentennial month, has seen several events to commemorate the anniversary.

Little is left of the frankly economic motives that prompted Hamburg businessmen to invest in the project on the city's behalf.

Overseas traders expected the observatory to benefit first and foremost the city's merchant navy, supplying information for navigation and timing.

These were classical astronomical activities that for millennia had often prompted people to keep track of the stars.

The first head of the observatory was, not surprisingly, a navigation instructor, Charles Rümker. He had previously run the municipal navigation college.

Until well into the 20th century astronomical navigation was the only way ships and later planes on the high seas, far away from landmarks, could determine their precise position.

They went by the stars, and exact observation was essential to be able to tell well in advance what the night sky would look like at any given time.

Every ship had on board (and still does, for safety's sake) astronomical almanacs that lay down the precise details in advance.

Navigating by the stars also presupposed knowledge of the exact time. Until a few years ago the earth's rotation was the sole basis of measuring time.

The earth's rotation can only be checked accurately by observing the Sun and stars. So it is no less surprising that timekeeping was another important activity for the newly-founded observatory.

From 1876 the observatory triggered a timepiece at 12 noon GMT daily in the port of Hamburg. Captains used to set their ships' clocks by this daily event.

The instruments with which the observatory was equipped were naturally for use in these practical contexts, and these tasks remain an important part of its work.

Yet navigation and timekeeping have been concentrated in other research facilities with progressive standardisation. In the Federal Republic of Germany standard time is kept by a research institute in Brunswick.

Positional astronomy was the next major sphere in which Rümker's successors, his son George, then Richard Schorr, specialised.

The precise measurement of the position of the stars was a laborious but successful part of their work. The positions of tens of thousands of stars were taken and catalogued.

From 1967 to 1972 a team of astronomers sent out by the Hamburg observatory took readings of the southern sky in Perth, Australia. They left their equipment behind when their mission was over.

Instruments have always had to be moved around. Originally the observatory was near the port. In 1912, after six years' construction work, it moved to a new home in Bergedorf, then a village outside the city.

Now Bergedorf is an urban borough and the observatory buildings are so hemmed in that practical observations are growing steadily more difficult.

So many items of equipment are now housed elsewhere. Some, for instance, are in Chile, where the European southern observatory is in the Atacama desert.

Others are at the Max Planck observatory in Calar Alto in southern Spain.

Research priorities have also changed. Positional astronomy is nowadays only a part of the observatory's work. It has been joined by satellite tracking and by observation of the galaxies and related issues of the make-up of the universe and how it came into being.

Otto Heckmann, the observatory's fourth director and director-general of the European southern observatory, was responsible for epoch-making work.

So was his colleague Walter Bunde, who spent much of his career teaching in the United States.

But the Bergedorf observatory made a special name for itself with the work of an outsider, the brilliant optician Bernhard Schmidt.

Schmidt worked there from 1926 and used primitive aids to devise an epoch-making optical telescope that bears his name.

The Schmidt telescope is still the workhorse of observatories all over the world when it comes to lengthy exposures of particularly weak stars and galaxies.

He devised a sophisticated correction plate: a kind of lens set up in front of a mirror that makes possible an amazingly clear and undistorted image.

He was instrumental in earning the observatory an international reputation. After 150 years of work the observatory, now a department of Hamburg University, can look back on a century and a half of successful activity.

By a quirk of coincidence another astronomical institution in the city has a special accomplishment to offer virtually in honour of the anniversary.

Hamburg planetarium, the oldest in the Federal Republic of Germany, has just reopened with a real attraction: the most up-to-date and best-equipped projector in the world.

While the observatory observes and takes readings of the stars, the planetarium uses an extremely complicated projector to project a replica of the night sky on to the inside of its dome roof.

The observatory's role is mainly a research one, the planetarium's mainly an educational one.

The new Carl Zeiss projector, the Model VI, can do virtually everything. It can project nearly 8,000 stars, and they glitter and flicker true to life.

It can be moved in any direction and show the course of the planets, Sun and Moon over a period of several thousand years.

It can project replica solar eclipses and much more. The Model VI can mock up in seconds situations the observatory has had to moon expeditions to see in real life.

Hamburg today has long ceased to be the city-state and merchants' republic it was 150 years ago. It is now the largest seaport and largest industrial city in the Federal Republic of Germany.

But it remains as well disposed toward astronomy and ready to support it as it was in 1833.

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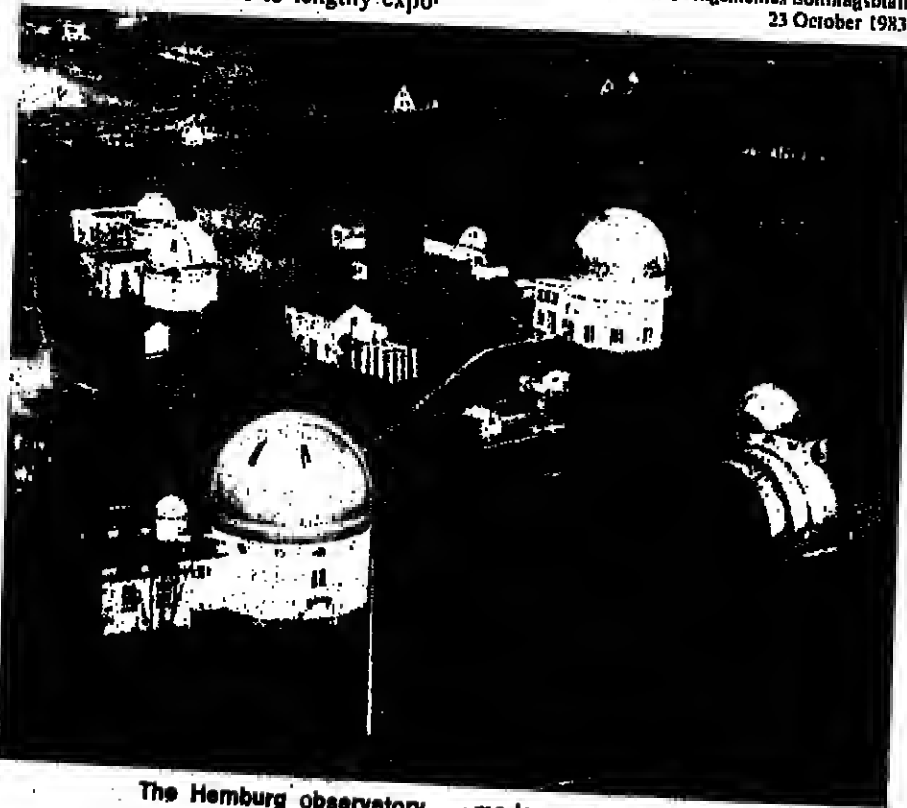
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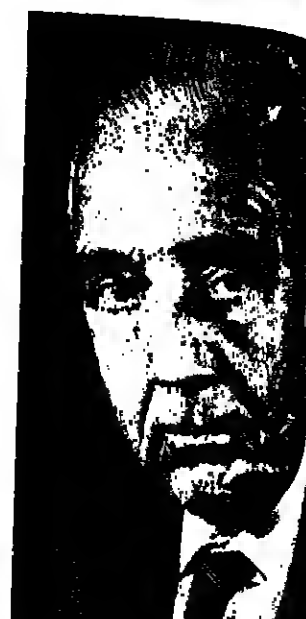
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Joachim W. Ekrutt  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,  
23 October 1983)



The Hamburg observatory... made a name for itself.  
(Photo: dpa, Luftbild foto, Nr. 211767)



Kurt Debus... a brilliant and a leader.

## Missile pioneer Kurt Debus dies at 74

Kurt Debus, who has died at his home in Cocoon Beach, Florida, was a pioneer of the modern rocket launchers.

Like Werner von Braun, he was a pioneer of the modern rocket launchers. He was born on 29 November 1909 in Frankfurt, where his father was a businessman. Naively keen on technical things, he followed his father's footsteps and became an engineer.

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## MEDICINE

### new drying-out treatment for alcoholics

hospital at Freudenberg, in the Black Forest, has developed a new method for alcoholics that is said to be more effective and cheaper than other methods.

Dr Gruner stresses the importance of including the next-of-kin in the therapy. Initially, this is done by talking with the patient's family. In the second half of the hospitalisation period, the patient joins in.

Dr Gruner says this brings an element of conflict into the therapy. But in most cases the patient masters the conflict. And talking it out paves the way back to the family fold.

Another important aspect is the additional training the nursing staff receives as part of the therapy groups.

Dr Gruner: "We have made a virtue out of necessity. We are so understaffed that we would otherwise have been unable to do the job."

His therapy concept could be applied anywhere. Good experience had been had in many places with untrained personnel.

But the outpatient after care was essential. Whenever possible, it should involve the same people who looked after the patient during hospitalisation.

The emphasis in the aftercare is on the self-help groups that had evolved from therapy groups in hospital.

Long-term success stood and fell with the cohesion of these groups.

Health problems were not limited to the breadwinner. The infant mortality rate in West Berlin was double that for Germans because of malformation, complications during pregnancy, dietary problems and metabolism disorders.

Foreign mothers did not take full advantage of antenatal care. When they did, doctors were often not as careful with them as with Germans.

Infectious diseases were twice as common among foreign children. Tuberculosis occurred rarely among Germans, but it was found among Turks.

Korporal said almost nobody had delved into the possible consequences of years of working under tough conditions.

It was probable that working conditions accounted for the fact that the number of foreigners involved in work accidents was three or four times that of Germans.

The higher rate of foreigners in traffic accidents: could indirectly be due to strain at work.

Foreigners accounted for only two per cent of all deaths in Germany but five per cent of traffic deaths.

Foreign workers unemployed for a long time through illness or accident found it hard to get a new job: 15 per cent never found permanent employment again.

Korporal suggested that when a doctor diagnosed the same disorder in a foreigner and a German woman the foreign woman received less satisfactory care.

Infectious diseases were twice as frequent among foreign children. Tuberculosis was still found among foreigners, but rarely among Germans.

Foreign children were more prone to accidents such as burns and poisoning from medicine.

It would be too easy to say these differences were only because of lack of information or of a reluctance to seek professional help.

Effective medical care for foreigners would presuppose more knowledge about their way of life their social structures.

But there was no publicly funded research programme researching the question.

Jörg Tröger  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 October 1983)

The patients are free to move around from the very beginning. They may leave the hospital, first in groups and later by themselves.

Regular spot checks have shown that there are few relapses.

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Jörg Tröger  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 October 1983)

## Prejudice and stress take their toll of foreigners

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Foreigners in Germany who fall ill are often reluctant to take sick leave in case they lose their job and find their residence qualifications in jeopardy, a conference has been told.

The result is that they tend to work on and their illness becomes worse. In general, their jobs are demanding on the health. They are exposed to heat, dust and noise more than Germans.

More than 4m foreigners live in Germany. About 1.5m are Turks.

The 10th international conference on preventive and social medicine in Mannheim heard that many doctors regarded foreigners as malingerers. The symptoms were often regarded as a result of home sickness rather than homelessness.

A Berlin social worker, J. Korporal, said the arduous nature of their work had led to a high rate of early retirement because of disability among foreigners.

They often worked where safety provisions were inadequate. Part of the reason, said Korporal, could be the impression that the strain was only temporary and that the foreigners would eventually return home.

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Jörg Tröger  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 October 1983)



### Looking at life again

Cancer victims learn how to enjoy life again. This group in Bremen is one of several throughout the country set up to help people who have undergone cancer operations. Group therapy involves talking with each other and activities such as (in this case) playing music.

Klaus Dallbor  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 October 1983)

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Police in West Germany want to step up the use of under-cover agents to break up organised crime.

One estimate is that organised crime costs the nation DM 122bn a year, which is about eight per cent of the gross national product.

Normal police methods have proved inadequate against crimes such as large-scale art thefts, goods stolen by the truckload, dealing in drugs and narcotics, forgery, blackmail, protection rackets, illegal labour trafficking, prostitution and commercial crimes such as fraudulent dealing in commodity futures.

A report suggesting an increase of the use of under-cover agents is being looked at by the Bonn Justice Ministry.

A spokesman said that the recommendation raised difficult and delicate legal matters.

The Bundeskriminalamt, or BKA, the German equivalent of the FBI, has already a special under-cover agent department. So has the state of Baden-Württemberg.

But others are not so keen. Schleswig-Holstein has rejected the report as being "not fully thought out."

The Interior Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Herbert Schnoor, says there will be no under-cover agents in his State. "The police is no secret service," he says.

In Hesse, the head of the police section at the Interior Ministry, Wolf Hoerschelmann, says his state is waiting until the Bonn Justice Ministry has considered the report.

A mixed commission of police and legal experts set up in Baden-Württemberg in 1974 dealt with the question of legality of using under-cover agents against serious crime and issued recommendations in 1978.

## CRIME

# Police want to step up use of under-cover agents

Frankfurter Rundschau

A committee of senior Federal and State policemen known as Workshop 2 considered the report and set up of a special team headed by Alfred Stümper, head of the Baden-Württemberg state police.

Stümper's report, accepted in January by Workshop 2 (but not unanimously) has been sent to the Federal Justice Ministry in Bonn.

It said that criminal organisations could only be broken if police maintained long-term contact with suspects.

Gathering information must involve police plants. That meant under-cover agents.

Workshop 2 forwarded the report together with the recommendation that it be quickly put into practice.

BKA's experience with under-cover agents has not always been fortunate. One was exposed after working in the Frankfurt underworld posing as a pilot for the airline Sabena.

Another is now on trial in Duisburg on charges involving blackmail, graft and other crimes. Despite this, BKA chief Heinrich Boge says the agents are necessary, though only as a last resort.

BKA has established a special un-

der-cover department with hand-picked officers. They operated under strict control and now have to account for their movements.

Stümper quotes Baden-Württemberg figures to demonstrate under-cover efficiency. Last year alone 287 dangerous criminals were arrested and convicted through the use of under-cover agents.

Neither Boge nor Stümper see legal problems. Boge says his men are strictly forbidden to commit crimes in the line of duty.

But the Workshop 2 report differs. It says a police plant could only be effective and retain his cover if he violated the law. The agent must have a "background" and a new identity, which meant forged papers, a car with untraceable licence plates and a suitable hideout.

But the forging and use of fake documents were punishable by law, as was the establishment and registration of a mock company.

Advocates of under-cover work say they are covered by Section 34 of the criminal code governing actions in an emergency.

Section 34 allows any citizen to "violate the law if this is the only way of averting an acute danger."

Workshop 2 says: "There is always an acute danger when dealing with organised crime."

Top Federal and state police consider Section 34 as an adequate backing for the leasing of a false name, electronic tapping and gaining access to a company ("I'm from the company").

Section 34 has become an umbrella for under-cover agents.

Experts even consider it as an adequate backing for the leasing of a false name, electronic tapping and gaining access to a company ("I'm from the company").

Reservations exist only against violations of individual rights by under-cover agents. The fifth annual conference, held in Brühl, near Cologne, dealt with a special aspect of reform of family legislation.

They do, however, believe infringements are justified against defacing facades and hanging graphic pictures of incidents. But the report fails to mention the difficulties they encounter.

Workshop 2 has dug up another provision on top of Section 34: "authority" allows, among other things, the use of forged papers, documents and stamps.

The forging of such documents is in any event a criminal offence.

The use of under-cover agents of legal pitfalls. They are less of the fact that this means a fight against organised crime.

North Rhine-Westphalia Minister Schnoor says criminal police could not work without them.

"A superior officer who allows a citizen to commit crimes in the line of duty is himself guilty of a crime," says Karl Heinz Lohmann.

Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 October

## MODERN LIVING

# Vexed question of broken families and access to children

until long and intensive deliberations had shown it to be impossible.

This may not have been much of an outcome, but it seems reasonable to assume that in time the current ratio of custody rulings will be reversed.

At present, custody is usually awarded to one or other of the parents, with joint custody the exception. The opposite may soon be the case.

But it wasn't the judges that started the ball rolling; it was experience showing that divorced couples increasingly insist on as few changes as possible for the children after the divorce.

Divorced couples seldom show such sense. Courts more often have to make orders on custody or visiting arrangements.

There are constant cases of the mother being awarded custody and the father "stealing" the child or even taking it abroad.

Or the father is allowed by court order to visit his child twice a month but the mother is opposed to the idea and bolts the door whenever he calls.

Selfishness is not always the reason. It is often a case of misunderstanding consideration for the child's interests.

The child may write to its father that it would sooner live with him. He then abducts the son or daughter. The child begs its mother not to let its father see it. So she refuses to let him in.

What course of action is open to the judge in such a case? It was agreed that coercion often ran counter to the child's welfare, and when force was used on parents the child was almost always the loser.

So compulsory measures were in contradiction with parental duty to do nothing that might upset children's relations with them or make their upbringing more difficult.

Judges were reluctant to insist on every means of enforcing decisions taken with the child's best interests in mind.

They would like to be able to refer cases to marriage guidance councils, the aim being to avoid coercion and prevent harm to the child.

Scotches may well wonder whether parents who defy court orders will be

prepared to visit marriage guidance councils, let alone act on the advice given.

One family court judge at Brühl said that every member of the bench who considered ordering forcible separation ought to have seen for himself what it was like in practice.

He should have been an eye-witness to a child being forcibly taken from its father or mother by the police. He would then probably consider every alternative first.

An evergreen at these gatherings is the crucial issue of whether children ought to be given a court hearing in, in this instance, custody cases.

Might a court appearance not make a lasting, detrimental impression on a child of, say, pre-school age?

Might juveniles not be capable of running psychological rings round judges or of playing off one parent against the other?

A working party on this issue agreed in Brühl that children under 14 ought in principle never to appear in court in most cases.

This was assuming that the parents were agreed on the facts of the case, the youth welfare departments approved and there was no indication that the child's interests might thereby be jeopardised.

In cases of wardship the court will invariably need at least to see the child to gain, for instance, some idea of whether and to what extent it might have been neglected.

Children of pre-school age often have to be questioned regardless, so judges ought to be trained in at least the basics of child psychology.

Most state justice departments are said not to have undertaken much in this direction.

Custody was dealt with at such length and in such detail this year that less attention was paid to other issues, such as pension rights and maintenance.

Maintenance was deliberately sidestepped because, as Bonn Justice Minister Hans Engelhard put it, the government is in the process of "beefing up" the provisions.

## Words just fail to describe how silent marriage can be

The longer a couple are married, the less they have to say to each other, says a Kiel scientist who has spent six years probing the "communication behaviour" of German couples.

A straw poll at breakfast in any hotel dining-room illustrates the point. Lovers, newly-weds and long-serving couples each stick out a mile.

The first category exchange looks, share jokes and are generally good at communicating. The second are usually engaged in long and serious discussions.

Couples with 10 or 15 years' wedlock behind them tend to be as silent as the grave, grimly eyeing the others and, at the most, exchanging caustic comments about them.

Professor H.W. Jürgens says that after two years together couples still spend

about 30 minutes a day talking to each other.

After four years they cut it down to 15 minutes. After eight years they have virtually nothing more to say to each other.

Does marriage make you speechless? Professor Jürgens' findings would seem to permit no other conclusion, and an explanation is easily found.

The longer a couple have lived together, the more they have already discussed any problems and issues that may arise, be they personal or general.

Each knows exactly what the other thinks and is likely to say on any given issue.

Many older couples who still have a great deal to say to each other show that this doesn't have to be the case. But it is usually the wife who takes the initiative.

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 22 October 1983)

But Bonn's proposals have yet to be submitted, so experienced with them could not be debated.

The congress had definite ideas, however, on the range of issues family courts ought to be entrusted with. It favoured a gradual extension of powers.

In the short term they should be entitled to rule on maintenance and on disputes concerning the right of access to information on a child's circumstances (a right enjoyed by the parent who is not awarded custody).

Such issues should later be joined by children's affairs and maintenance cases of the kind currently dealt with by general courts.

The congress also felt that in the long term family courts ought to be entrusted with all aspects of guardianship cases.

They might also be empowered to deal with cases in connection with engagement, marriage and marital property rights.

So the aim is clearly to look after the family from the cradle to the grave.

Rainer Klose

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 October 1983)

## Minister wants censorship of video cassettes

Video cassettes should be censored, says the North Rhine-Westphalian Justice Minister, Inge Donnopp. Violence in the media was one reason for an increasing rate of child bashing.

Frau Donnopp said makers and distributors of video films had a lot to answer for but there was little the law could do.

Between 700 and 900 people a year were sentenced in North Rhine-Westphalia for child bashing. But the number of convictions was down.

Last year there were 71 convictions, of which 493 were in connection with sex offences.

There were 152 cases of grievous bodily harm and 29 of maltreatment of children entrusted to an adult's care.

Twelve people were sentenced in cases where children had died, including four of child murder. The figures were representative.

Frau Donnopp noted that police statistics did not reveal the exact number of juvenile victims. A single child was involved in only 515 cases.

In 123 cases two children were involved; in 61 between three and five children and in 11 more than six children. But she felt the true figure was much higher.

Only about 10 to 20 per cent of cases were reported to the police. In many cases a parent or guardian was involved, with the result that the child said nothing for fear or shame.

Above all, the child had no idea who it could turn to. Family circumstances were one contributory factor, violence in the media another.

The manufacturers and purveyors of video cassettes had a lot to answer for, and there was little the law could do to remedy matters.

By the time the authorities were called in the baby had gone down with the bath water and the harm had already been done.

Frau Donnopp said local authorities ought to hire lawyers to keep an eye on children's affairs. She would like to see video cassettes cleared by a panel before being released for sale or hire.

rtr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 October 1983)

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